

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XIII, No. 12, December, 1915

From Some Editorial Notes:

December—The End of Another Year.—This is the last number of the thirteenth volume of your *Journal*, and in spite of the supposedly unluckiness of the "13" part of it, it has been a very good year. Instead of a decrease in advertising returns, as was expected, we have actually had an increase. While there was no meeting of the State Society, and thus some forty or more papers, which usually come in for publication, did not arrive, there was an ample supply of contributions and of a quality rather above the average. Some notable articles have appeared during the past year. The meeting of the American Medical Association and of the Pan-American Medical Congress brought many distinguished physicians to San Francisco and, of course, to other parts of the state as well. To say that the recent San Francisco meeting of the American Medical Association was a great success is to state what our members know quite well, for so many of them came, saw, heard, and were profited. There never was a time when our members should stand more closely together; when the solidity and stability of the organization was of such great importance and necessity.

Suits for alleged malpractice have greatly increased in number and no physician seems to be safe from such attacks. It is a condition hard to explain, but there seems to be a regular fever of desire to "sue the doctor"; most of the time of the Secretary and half of the income of the Society are taken up with this work alone. To be sure, we win the suits—during 1915 we lost but one, and in that case the verdict was a sympathetic one and for but \$500—but it requires an immense amount of work and time to prepare the cases and try them. A very large number never come to trial, but we have to be ready for them, just the same. This is no time for the airing of personal differences; let them go and become forgotten. And, above all, guard well your tongue against idle criticism of another physician's work or treatment. Without the State Society organization behind them, with its legal department watching their interests, the physicians of this state would have been in a sorry plight during the past year; it would have cost the individual physicians who have been threatened or actually sued, anywhere from \$50,000 to \$60,000 to care for their own interests. And with these few words of summary, may the season's greetings go to each and every one; it has been a good year in many ways—let us see to it that we make the next one better, and carry through it that one thought: Guard well your tongue from criticism.

Business!—Dues are payable on January 1. That is an important matter for you to remember, for the work of the Society is growing in magnitude so fast that business principles must be followed. Do not make any more trouble for the secretary of your county society than you can help—therefore, pay your dues promptly. All memberships terminate on December 31, but in order to give old members a chance to retain their membership, they are allowed sixty days in which to be reported to this office, and the assessment paid. That is, to March 1.* Any old

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†This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

* In 1941, membership lapses if annual dues are not paid on or before April 1, 1941.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

Meetings of the Board of Medical Examiners of California

February 24 to 27, 1941—Independent Foresters Hall, 1329 South Hope Street, Los Angeles. No oral examinations.

June 30, July 1 to 3, 1941—Native Sons Hall, 414 Mason Street, San Francisco. No oral examinations.

July 14 to 17, 1941—Independent Foresters Hall, 1329 South Hope Street, Los Angeles. Oral examination, July 14, 1941.

October 20 to 23, 1941—State Capitol, Sacramento. No oral examinations.

All reciprocity applicants must be identified after notification of Credential Committee action and *not* before the application has been filed. If recommended for "*direct*," appear before one California Board member with photo on which such member will endorse date of your appearance and sign his name, or appear (with photo) before the Secretary of the Medical Examining Board of the State wherein applicant resides and said Secretary will sign, seal and date applicant's photo.

Oral examinations for 1941 (required when reciprocity application is based on a state certificate or license issued ten or more years before filing application in California) will be held commencing at 10 a. m.: January 29, 1941, Board Office, 907 State Building, Los Angeles; April 16, 1941, Board Office, 515 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco; July 14, 1941, Independent Foresters Hall, 1329 South Hope Street, Los Angeles; October 1, 1941, Board Office, 515 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco; December 10, 1941, Board Office, 907 State Building, Los Angeles.

No examination given unless completed application and fee has been filed in Sacramento office at least two weeks prior to the date when applicant expects to appear.

No examination will be given unless applicant notifies the Sacramento office of the Board at least two weeks in advance, stating when and where he will appear.

In addition to reciprocity applicants an oral examination may be required of applicants under Section 2194 of the Business and Professions Code relating to the practice of medicine (National Board credentials) or Section 2216 (U. S. commissioned medical officer). Medical Officers Reserve Corps not eligible.

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Written examinations, legal hearings and all other business:

February 24 to 27, 1941—Independent Foresters Hall, 1329 South Hope Street, Los Angeles. No oral examinations.

June 30, July 1 to 3, 1941—Native Sons Hall, 414 Mason Street, San Francisco. No oral examinations.

July 14 to 17, 1941—Independent Foresters Hall, 1329 South Hope Street, Los Angeles. Oral examination, July 14, 1941.

October 20 to 23, 1941—State Capitol, Sacramento. No oral examinations.

Applications, fully completed, must be filed two weeks before examination together with notification which of above examinations will be taken.

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†The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.



VEGEX for the complete VITAMIN B COMPLEX

"The simplest definition of the vitamin B complex is that it is an assemblage of the water-soluble vitamin factors present in yeast." (The Lancet, November 2, 1940, page 558).

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BOOK REVIEWS

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Knowing his devotedness to the fair sex, Heitz-Boyer of Paris inveigled him to take the long, tiresome trip from Madrid (International Society of Urology meeting of 1930) to Marrakech, in Morocco, which he did by way of Rome, there "to deliver a lecture," returning to London in time for a scheduled address. "He (Heitz-Boyer) painted a picture of the palace where we would be entertained and the harem with two hundred beauties into which he would take me." Young tells many amusing and thrilling experiences of this trip, but later Heitz-Boyer "admitted that his promise of a visit to the harem was simply put out to lure me."

One can guess on reading this autobiography why Osler's dictum misses Hugh Hampton Young. He worked for joy, drank for fun, and loved beauty and wit for amusement. Work without a worry, drink without a curse, and women without remorse hardens our arteries, and now at seventy he is as active, interested and interesting as ever.—Frank Hinman.

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member not reported and paid for before March 1, is recorded as dropped from the first day of the year and is put back as a new member from the date when, and if, he is again reported. He loses all right to medical defense during the time between January 1 and the date when he is reported, after March 1. Suits for damages for alleged malpractice are increasing so rapidly that no member can afford to be without the protection of the State Society for a single day. Be sure to pay your dues early and avoid trouble.

Danger Averted.—The wisdom of referring the names of all applicants for membership in county societies to the office of the State Society for a report before taking any

action, was emphatically illustrated quite recently when the secretary of a certain county society sent in the name of one Frank B. M.— as an applicant. The records disclose but one of this name licensed in this state. They also disclose the fact that the person of this name was an advertising specialist in "men's diseases" and "blood diseases" on Third Street, near Market Street, San Francisco, and that there were many nasty cases reported about him. The activities of the Board of Medical Examiners made it very uncomfortable for him and so, presumably, he decided to be good and get all whitewashed so he would look nice and clean. Wouldn't he make a nice member!

Taxing Physicians.—A prominent member of the Society writes as follows: "Can a city legally collect a business license tax from a licensed physician, in this state"? It can. There are a number of supreme court decisions on this point, one of them here in California. Furthermore, we find in Blackstone's Commentaries, Book III, Chapter 9, 158: "For it is a part of the original contract, entered into by all mankind who partake the benefits of society, to submit in all points to the municipal constitutions and local ordinances of that state, of which each individual is a member. Whatever, therefore, the laws order anyone to pay, that becomes instantly a debt, which he hath beforehand contracted to discharge." This is fundamental common law, and provided the local ordinance is not so worded as to discriminate against persons of the same class, and that it does not conflict with a superior statute, it is good and valid. . . .

Social Insurance.—In view of the fact that the *Journal*, from the time that industrial insurance was first broached in this state, expressed the opinion that it was merely the

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OAKLAND

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forerunner of general sickness insurance, the following (infra) editorial from a recent number of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, is interesting. It is a safe bet that this further sociologic change will be along within the next five years, but by that time we will have learned many things as to social insurance from our experience with industrial accident and occupational disease insurance, both of which we now have with us: . . .

♦ ♦ ♦

Photographs, Please!—On several previous occasions we have referred briefly to the records concerning physicians which are being gathered in the office of the State Society. The desire is to secure and file away all the information it is possible to get about any and every physician in California. It is exceedingly valuable, the commendatory information no less than that which reflects unfavorably. The question of identity has come up on a number of occasions, and in one instance several weeks were required before we could obtain a certain sample of a physician's writing in order to identify a signature to an official document. You have no idea of the importance of this apparently trivial thing of absolutely fixing the identity of a certain individual. For that reason we are filing, as fast as the work can be done and the material secured, samples of handwriting, photographs, etc. Will you please send us your photograph? Preferably, an unmounted one, with your signature on the back; but any sort of photograph will do. We have a few hundred photographs and they come in very handy; we want all we can get; will you help? Please do.

Ray Lyman Wilbur, M. D., Country Doctor, President of Stanford.—The backbone of the medical profession is not the city specialist or the wonderfully able surgeon; as the *Journal* has always contended, it is the country doctor who is thorough, careful, and conscientious; who works hard and studies hard and who has a large conception of humanity and of human nature and frailty. It is, therefore, a very great pleasure to record the appointment of Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur to the presidency of one of the large universities of this country—Leland Stanford, Jr., University. The opportunity has been given him to extend his work and his activities into a very large field and the knowledge and the training which he acquired as a good "country doctor" will enable him to be very useful to the institution whose future destinies and policies he is largely to guide and shape. It would probably be conventional to compliment Doctor Wilbur upon his appointment; but would it not be more fitting to felicitate Stanford University and to compliment the medical profession and particularly the country doctor upon this recognition of what it, and the type, may stand for in the community?

From an Original Article on "Amputations and Their After-Treatment," by L. Eloesser, M. D., San Francisco.—The subject of amputations is one that up to recent years has long been neglected and overshadowed by more important modern achievements in abdominal, thoracic and cranial surgery. We can glean more useful information from older surgical writers—Velpeau and other old French and English surgeons—than from the more modern textbooks. Of course, these writers of a day when amputations made up more than half of all major surgical procedures, had a vastly greater experience than we whose knowledge

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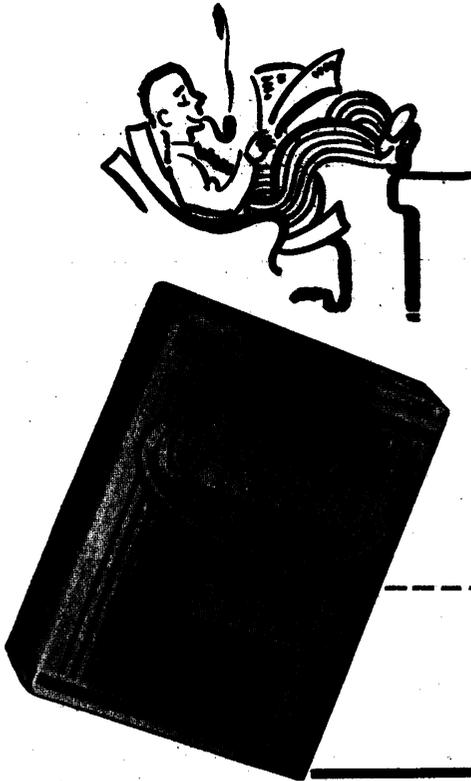
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of the treatment of wounds and chronic inflammations of the bones and joints has enabled us to save many limbs that were formerly sacrificed. Our results in amputations, however, lag far behind those in other surgical procedures. . . .

From an Original Article on "The Application of Anoci Association to Obstetrics," by Carl L. Hoag, M. D., San Francisco.—The present furore about "twilight sleep" has brought great pressure to bear upon the conscientious physician who does not feel justified in using a procedure which entails such risks. Recognizing the general demand for the more extended use of anesthetics in labor, he will doubtless welcome any method which secures this end without too much danger to mother or child. This consideration has prompted me to report the following procedure without awaiting the accumulation of a large number of cases. As will be seen, the method is not new in itself, but is the application of a now well accepted principle to this new field of obstetrics. . . .

From an Original Article on "The Treatment of Congenital Syphilis," by Hans Lisser, M. D., San Francisco.—When one has the opportunity of seeing large numbers of luetic patients that drift in from widely scattered sources, a large number of whom have already received some specific medication, it is somewhat disappointing to note how varied and unsystematic the majority of such treatment proves itself to be. Some of these failures are unquestionably to be referred back to the individual patient, who is either too ignorant to comprehend the necessity for vigorous long-continued treatment, or unwilling to follow the earnest advice of his physician. Despite these extenuating

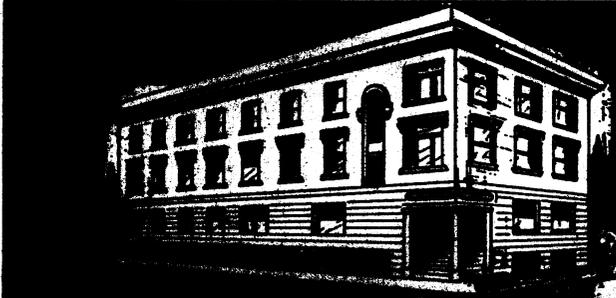
circumstances, and the deceptive promises of quacks, a goodly amount of rather haphazard treatment must be admitted by the profession itself. This is somewhat surprising in view of the extraordinary efficacy of the remedies at our command. And yet this very brilliance of result is occasionally a stumbling-block, the patient regaining his health so rapidly that he firmly insists he is cured. The treatment of acquired syphilis has become, for the present at least, quite standardized. The combination therapy of old salvarsan, and mercury salicylate injections with the judicious use of the iodids is, if properly administered, almost ideal. It is certainly eminently satisfactory.

From an Original Article on "Dr. Carlos J. Finlay, Discoverer of the Theory of the Transmission of Yellow Fever by the Mosquito: His Biography," by Dr. E. B. Barnet.—In view of the fact that one of the most brilliant discoveries of the age (fully as important to tropical America as that of the immortal Jenner), the transmission of yellow fever by the mosquito, was made in Cuba, and that with this discovery is connected the name of the eminent Cuban physician, Dr. Carlos J. Finlay, and on account of his recent death it would appear opportune at this time to go into the life history of this illustrious man. His death occurred in Havana, Cuba, on August 20, having reached the age of eighty-two years.

The work of Finlay has opened up the heretofore closed path of progress and civilization in tropical America. Without detracting in the least from the merits of Doctors Reed, Carroll, Agramonte, Lazear, Gorgas, and others, who contributed in the practice of exterminating the mosquito as a measure of sanitation, it is possible to declare that without the Finlay theory, the gigantic work of the Panama Canal could never have been accomplished.

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Address Communications

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San Francisco

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The same sanitary plan which was carried out in Cuba was enforced at the Canal Zone, thus confirming the ideas of this brilliant mind.

In an address delivered at Baltimore in April, 1901, Dr. Walter Reed made the following statement: "To Dr. Carlos J. Finlay must be given, however, full credit for the theory of the propagation of yellow fever by the mosquito."

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Graduates of foreign medical schools must have fulfilled requirements in our Forms 172-173 before filing application.

It is imperative you notify Sacramento office of Board (in writing) at time of filing application when and where you will appear for written examination.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners held at the State Capitol, Sacramento, October 21 to 24, inclusive, 1940, approximately seventy-seven applicants of all classes, including physicians and surgeons, chiropodists and drugless practitioners, wrote the examination for their respective certificates. Among the physicians and surgeons were several graduates of foreign medical schools.

The following changes in status of the various licensees were made:

The license of Perlely B. Exelby, M. D., revoked on October 18, 1939, was restored on October 21, 1940, and he was placed on five years' probation.

The license of Thomas D. Wyatt, M. D., revoked on October 19, 1939, on two counts of alleged illegal operation, was restored on October 23, 1940, and he was placed on probation for a period of five years.

Archibald E. Amsbaugh, M. D., charged with allegedly prescribing for narcotic addicts, was on October 23 placed on five years' probation, during which period he is not to have or apply for a federal narcotic permit, or have narcotics in his possession.

Clyde Rolland Bennett, M. D., charged with conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, was on October 22, 1940, placed on five years' probation, the terms of which were specified.

Robert E. Benveniste, allegedly violating the narcotic law, was on October 23 placed on five years' probation under certain terms, which specified that within ten days he must close his office for a period of ninety days. Doctor Benveniste has filed petition for writ of mandate in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. Petition is set for hearing before said court on December 20, 1940.

Edwin Morey Chase, M. D., charged with allegedly habitual intemperance, was on October 23, 1940, placed on probation for a period of five years.

Walter Blaine Felger, M. D., charged with aiding and abetting, was on October 23, placed on probation for a period of five years under specified terms.

James T. George, M. D., charged with allegedly violating the narcotic law, was on October 23 placed on five years' probation under specified terms, among which was that he must within ten days close his office and give up practice for a period of ninety days.

Arthur Richard Gould, M. D., charged with aiding and abetting, was on October 23, 1940, placed on three years' probation under specified terms.

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